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Existence results for a kind of fourth-order impulsive integral boundary value problems

Meng Sun and Yepeng Xing*

*Correspondence:
ypxingmath@gmail.com
Department of Mathematics,
Shanghai Normal University,
Shanghai, 200234, P.R. China

Abstract

In this paper we investigate the existence of solutions to a kind of fourth-order impulsive differential equations with integral boundary value conditions. By employing the Schauder fixed point theorem, we obtain sufficient conditions which ensure the system has at least one solution. Also by using the contraction mapping theorem we get the uniqueness result. Finally an example is given to illustrate the effectiveness of our results.

Keywords: fourth order; impulsive; integral boundary conditions

1 Introduction

Fourth-order boundary value problems have attracted much attention from many authors; for example, see Sun and Wang [1], Yao [2], O'Regan [3], Yang [4], Zhang [5], Gupta [6], Agarwal [7], Bonanno and Bella [8], and Han and Xu [9]. In particular, we would like to mention some results as follows. In [10], Zhang and Liu studied the following fourth-order four-point boundary value problem:

$$\begin{cases} (\phi_p(x''(t)))' = \omega(t)f(t, x(t)), & t \in [0, 1], \\ x(0) = 0, & x(1) = ax(\xi), \\ x''(0) = 0, & x''(1) = bx''(\eta), \end{cases}$$

where $0 < \xi, \eta < 1$, $0 \leq a < b < 1$. By using the upper and lower solutions method, fixed point theorems, and the properties of the Green's functions $G(t, s)$ and $H(t, s)$, the authors gave sufficient conditions for the existence of one positive solution.

Zhou and Zhang [11] employed a new existence theory to study the fourth-order p -Laplacian elasticity problems:

$$\begin{cases} (\phi_m(y''))' = F(t, y, y''), & 0 < t < 1, \\ ay(0) - by'(0) = \int_0^1 g(s)y(s) ds, \\ ay(1) + by'(1) = \int_0^1 g(s)y(s) ds, \\ \phi_m(y''(0)) = \phi_m(y''(1)) = \int_0^1 h(t)\phi_m(y''(t)) dt, \end{cases}$$

where $a, b > 0$, $J = [0, 1]$, $\phi_m(s)$ is an m -Laplace operator, i.e. $\phi_m(s) = |s|^{m-2}s$, $m > 1$, $(\phi_m)^{-1} = \phi_{m^*}$, $\frac{1}{m} + \frac{1}{m^*} = 1$, $F : [0, 1] \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is continuous. In their paper, a new technique for dealing with the bending term of the fourth-order p -Laplacian elasticity problems was

introduced and several new and more general results were obtained for the existence of at least single, double, or triple positive solutions.

Feng [12] studied a fourth-order boundary value problem with impulses and integral boundary conditions,

$$\begin{cases} (\phi_p(y''(t)))' = f(t, y(t)), & t \in [0, 1], t \neq t_k, k = 1, 2, \dots, n, \\ \Delta y'|_{t=t_k} = -I_k(y(t_k)), & k = 1, 2, \dots, n, \\ y(0) = y(1) = \int_0^1 g(s)y(s) ds, \\ \phi_p(y''(0)) = \phi_p(y''(1)) = \int_0^1 h(s)\phi_p(y''(s)) ds. \end{cases}$$

By using a suitably constructed cone and fixed point theory for cones, the existence of multiple positive solutions was established. Some papers considered the existence, multiplicity, and nonexistence of positive solutions for fourth-order impulsive differential equations with one-dimensional m -Laplacian; for example, see [13–17]. Most recently Feng and Qiu [18], studied a fourth-order impulse integral boundary value problem with one-dimensional m -Laplacian and deviating arguments:

$$\begin{cases} (\phi_m(y''))' = \lambda\omega(t)f(t, y(\alpha(t))), & t \in J, t \neq t_k, k = 1, 2, \dots, n, \\ \Delta y'|_{t=t_k} = -\mu I_k(t_k, y(t_k)), & k = 1, 2, \dots, n, \\ ay(0) - by'(0) = \int_0^1 g(s)y(s) ds, \\ ay(1) + by'(1) = \int_0^1 g(s)y(s) ds, \\ \phi_m(y''(0)) = \phi_m(y''(1)) = \int_0^1 h(t)\phi_m(y''(t)) dt. \end{cases}$$

We see that in the above system the right-hand side function f has nothing to do with the term y' , the jumping function I_k does not contain the term $y'(t_k)$. What is more, there is no restriction on the impulses for state function, *i.e.* $\Delta y|_{t=t_k}$ does not appear. Definitely for more extensive applications, we would better consider the following boundary value problem:

$$\begin{cases} (\phi_m(y''))' = f(t, y, y'), & t \in J, t \neq t_k, k = 1, 2, \dots, m, \\ \Delta y|_{t=t_k} = I_k(y(t_k)), & k = 1, 2, \dots, m, \\ \Delta y'|_{t=t_k} = \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)), & k = 1, 2, \dots, m, \\ ay(0) - by'(0) = \int_0^1 g(s)y(s) ds, \\ ay(1) + by'(1) = \int_0^1 g(s)y(s) ds, \\ \phi_m(y''(0)) = \phi_m(y''(1)) = \int_0^1 h(t)\phi_m(y''(t)) dt, \end{cases} \quad (1.1)$$

where $a, b > 0$, $J = [0, 1]$, $\phi_m(s)$ is an m -Laplace operator, *i.e.* $\phi_m(s) = |s|^{m-2}s$, $m > 1$, $(\phi_m)^{-1} = \phi_m^*$, $\frac{1}{m} + \frac{1}{m^*} = 1$, $0 = t_0 < t_1 < t_2 < \dots < t_k < \dots < t_m < t_{m+1} = 1$, $f \in C[J \times R^n \times R^n, R^n]$, $I_k \in C[R^n, R^n]$, $\bar{I}_k \in C[R^n \times R^n, R^n]$, $\Delta y|_{t=t_k} = y(t_k^+) - y(t_k^-)$, here $y(t_k^+)$ and $y(t_k^-)$ represent the right-hand limit and left-hand limit of $y(t)$ at $t = t_k$, respectively. $\Delta y'|_{t=t_k}$ has a similar meaning for $y'(t)$. In addition, f , g , and h satisfy the following conditions.

- (H1) $f \in C[J \times R^n \times R^n, R^n]$, $\Delta y|_{t=t_k} = y(t_k^+) - y(t_k^-)$, where $y(t_k^+)$ and $y(t_k^-)$ represent the right-hand limit and left-hand limit of $y(t)$ at $t = t_k$, respectively;
- (H2) $I_k \in C[R^n, R^n]$, $\bar{I}_k \in C[R^n \times R^n, R^n]$;
- (H3) $g, h \in L^1[0, 1]$ are nonnegative and $\xi \in [0, a)$, $v \in [0, 1)$ where

$$\xi = \int_0^1 g(t) dt, \quad v = \int_0^1 h(t) dt. \quad (1.2)$$

The remainder of the paper is organized as below. In Section 2, we give the expression of the solution to BVP (1.2). For this purpose, we do some computation and estimation of the Green's function. In Section 3, we show the existence and uniqueness of solutions to BVP (1.2) by the Schauder fixed point theorem and contraction mapping theorem. Section 4 gives an example to illustrate our main result.

2 Preliminaries and lemmas

We shall reduce problem (1.1) to an integral equation. To this aim, first, by means of the transformation

$$\phi_m(y''(t)) = -x(t),$$

we convert problem (1.1) into

$$\begin{cases} x''(t) + f(t, y, y') = 0, & t \in J, \\ x(0) = x(1) = \int_0^1 h(t)x(t) dt \end{cases} \quad (2.1)$$

and

$$\begin{cases} y''(t) = -\phi_m^*(x(t)), & t \in J, t \neq t_k, \\ \Delta y|_{t=t_k} = I_k(y(t_k)), & k = 1, 2, \dots, m, \\ \Delta y'|_{t=t_k} = \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)), & k = 1, 2, \dots, m, \\ ay(0) - by'(0) = \int_0^1 g(s)y(s) ds, \\ ay(1) + by'(1) = \int_0^1 g(s)y(s) ds. \end{cases} \quad (2.2)$$

Lemma 2.1 *If (H1), (H2), and (H3) hold, then problem (2.1) has a unique solution $x(t)$, which is given by*

$$x(t) = \int_0^1 H(t, s)f(s, y, y') ds,$$

where

$$H(t, s) = G(t, s) + \frac{1}{1-v} \int_0^1 G(s, \tau)h(\tau) d\tau, \quad (2.3)$$

$$G(t, s) = \begin{cases} t(1-s), & 0 \leq t \leq s \leq 1, \\ s(1-t), & 0 \leq s \leq t \leq 1. \end{cases} \quad (2.4)$$

Proof Integrating (2.1) from 0 to t we get

$$x'(t) - x'(0) = - \int_0^t f(t, y, y') dt,$$

$$x'(t) = x'(0) - \int_0^t f(t, y, y') dt.$$

Integrating it again, we have

$$x(t) - x(0) = x'(0)t - \int_0^t (t-s)f(s, y, y') ds,$$

$$x(t) = x(0) + x'(0)t - \int_0^t (t-s)f(s, y, y') ds.$$

From (2.1) we know that $x(0) = x(1) = \int_0^1 h(t)x(t) dt$. Letting $t = 1$ we then obtain

$$x(1) = x(0) + x'(0) - \int_0^1 (1-s)f(s, y, y') ds.$$

Hence

$$x'(0) = \int_0^1 (1-s)f(s, y, y') ds.$$

Thus we get

$$x(t) = \int_0^1 h(t)x(t) dt + t \int_0^1 (1-s)f(s, y, y') ds - \int_0^t (t-s)f(s, y, y') ds. \quad (2.5)$$

In order to get the expression of $x(t)$, different from [3], we multiply both sides of (2.5) with function $h(t)$ and then integrating it from 0 to 1, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 h(t)x(t) dt &= \int_0^1 h(s) ds \int_0^1 h(t)x(t) dt + \int_0^1 th(t) dt \int_0^1 (1-s)f(s, y, y') ds \\ &\quad - \int_0^1 h(t) dt \int_0^t (t-s)f(s, y, y') ds \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} (1-v) \int_0^1 h(t)x(t) dt &= \int_0^1 th(t) dt \int_0^1 (1-s)f(s, y, y') ds \\ &\quad - \int_0^1 h(t) dt \int_0^t (t-s)f(s, y, y') ds. \end{aligned}$$

Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^1 h(t)x(t) dt &= \frac{1}{1-v} \left(\int_0^1 th(t) dt \int_0^1 (1-s)f(s, y, y') ds \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \int_0^1 h(t) dt \int_0^t (t-s)f(s, y, y') ds \right). \end{aligned} \quad (2.6)$$

Finally, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} x(t) &= \frac{1}{1-v} \left(\int_0^1 th(t) dt \int_0^1 (1-s)f(s, y, y') ds - \int_0^1 h(t) dt \int_0^t (t-s)f(s, y, y') ds \right) \\ &\quad + t \int_0^1 (1-s)f(s, y, y') ds - \int_0^1 (1-s)f(s, y, y') ds \\ &= \frac{1}{1-v} \left(\int_0^1 \int_0^1 th(t)(1-s)f(s, y, y') dt ds - \int_0^1 \int_0^t h(t)(t-s)f(s, y, y') ds dt \right) \\ &\quad + \int_0^1 t(1-s)f(s, y, y') ds - \int_0^1 (1-s)f(s, y, y') ds \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \int_0^1 \frac{1}{1-\nu} \left(\int_0^1 t(1-s)h(t) dt - \int_0^t (t-s)h(t) dt \right) f(s, y, y') ds \\
&\quad + \int_0^1 t(1-s)f(s, y, y') ds - \int_0^1 (1-s)f(s, y, y') ds \\
&= \int_0^1 \frac{1}{1-\nu} \left(\int_0^1 t(1-s)h(t) dt - \int_0^t (t-s)h(t) dt \right) f(s, y, y') ds \\
&\quad + \int_0^t s(1-t)f(s, y, y') ds - \int_t^1 t(1-s)f(s, y, y') ds.
\end{aligned}$$

Thus

$$x(t) = \int_0^1 H(t, s)f(s, y, y') ds,$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
H(t, s) &= G(t, s) + \frac{1}{1-\nu} \int_0^1 G(s, \tau)h(\tau) d\tau, \\
G(t, s) &= \begin{cases} t(1-s), & 0 \leq t \leq s \leq 1, \\ s(1-t), & 0 \leq s \leq t \leq 1. \end{cases}
\end{aligned}$$

This completes the proof. \square

Let $e(t) = t(1-t)$. Then from (2.3) and (2.4) we can prove that $H(t, s)$ and $G(t, s)$ have the following properties.

Lemma 2.2 *Let $G(t, s)$ and $H(t, s)$ be given as in Lemma 2.1. Assume that (H3) holds. Then we have*

$$\begin{aligned}
H(t, s) &> 0, \quad G(t, s) > 0, \quad \forall t, s \in (0, 1), \\
H(t, s) &\geq 0, \quad G(t, s) \geq 0, \quad \forall t, s \in J, \\
e(t)e(s) &\leq G(t, s) \leq G(t, t) = t(1-t) = e(t) \leq \bar{e} = \max_{t \in J} e(t) = \frac{1}{4}, \quad \forall t, s \in J, \\
\rho e(s) &\leq H(t, s) \leq \gamma s(1-s) = \gamma e(s) \leq \frac{1}{4}\gamma, \quad \forall t, s \in J,
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\gamma = \frac{1}{1-\nu}, \quad \rho = \frac{\int_0^1 e(\tau)h(\tau) d\tau}{1-\nu}.$$

Lemma 2.3 *If (H1), (H2), and (H3) hold, then problem (2.2) has a unique solution $y(t)$ expressed in the form*

$$\begin{aligned}
y(t) &= \int_0^1 H_1(t, s)\phi_{m^*}(x(s)) ds - \sum_{k=1}^m H_1(t, t_k)\bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) \\
&\quad - \sum_{k=1}^m H_2(t)I_k(y(t_k)),
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$H_1(t, s) = G_1(t, s) + \frac{1}{a - \xi} \int_0^1 G_1(s, \tau) g(\tau) d\tau, \quad (2.7)$$

$$G_1(t, s) = \frac{1}{d} \begin{cases} (b + as)(b + a(1 - t)), & 0 \leq s \leq t \leq 1, \\ (b + at)(b + a(1 - s)), & 0 \leq t \leq s \leq 1, \end{cases} \quad (2.8)$$

$$H_2(t) = \frac{at - a - b}{a + 2b} + \frac{1}{a - \xi} \int_0^1 \frac{at - a - b}{a + 2b} g(t) dt, \quad (2.9)$$

and $d = a(a + 2b)$.

Proof First, we assume that $t \in I_i$, $I_i = (t_i, t_{i+1})$ ($i = 0, 1, 2, \dots, m$). Integrating both sides of (2.2) from t_i to t_{i+1}^- , we get

$$y'(t_1^-) - y'(0) = - \int_0^{t_1} \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) dt,$$

$$y'(t_2^-) - y'(t_1^+) = - \int_{t_1}^{t_2} \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) dt,$$

...

$$y'(t) - y'(t_i^+) = - \int_{t_i}^t \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) dt.$$

Adding the above equations, we find

$$\begin{aligned} y'(t) - y'(0) - \sum_{k:t_k < t} (y'(t_k^+) - y'(t_k^-)) &= - \int_0^t \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) dt, \\ y'(t) &= y'(0) + \sum_{k:t_k < t} (y'(t_k^+) - y'(t_k^-)) - \int_0^t \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) dt, \\ y'(t) &= y'(0) + \sum_{k:t_k < t} \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) - \int_0^t \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) dt. \end{aligned} \quad (2.10)$$

Similarly, we can get

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) &= y(0) + y'(0)t - \int_0^t (t - s) \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) ds \\ &\quad + \sum_{k:t_k < t} (t - t_k) \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) + \sum_{k:t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)). \end{aligned} \quad (2.11)$$

Let $t = 1$ in (2.10) and (2.11). We obtain

$$\begin{cases} by'(1) = by'(0) + b \sum_{k:t_k < 1} \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) - b \int_0^1 \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) dt, \\ ay(1) = ay(0) + ay'(0) - a \int_0^1 (1 - s) \phi_{m^*}(x(s)) ds \\ \quad + a \sum_{k:t_k < 1} (1 - t_k) \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) + a \sum_{k:t_k < 1} I_k(y(t_k)). \end{cases}$$

It is easy to get

$$\begin{aligned} ay(1) + by'(1) &= ay(0) + (a+b)y'(0) - a \int_0^1 (1-s)\phi_{m^*}(x(s)) ds \\ &\quad + a \sum_{k:t_k < t} (1-t_k)\bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) + a \sum_{k:t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)) \\ &\quad + b \sum_{k:t_k < t} \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) - b \int_0^t \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) dt \\ &= \int_0^1 g(s)y(s) ds, \end{aligned}$$

which implies

$$\begin{aligned} ay(0) + (a+b)y'(0) &= a \int_0^1 (1-s)\phi_{m^*}(x(s)) ds \\ &\quad - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} (1-t_k)\bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) \\ &\quad - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)) - b \sum_{k:t_k < t} \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) \\ &\quad + b \int_0^t \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) dt + \int_0^1 g(s)y(s) ds. \end{aligned}$$

Then we have the following equations:

$$\begin{cases} ay(0) + (a+b)y'(0) \\ \quad = a \int_0^1 (1-s)\phi_{m^*}(x(s)) ds - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} (1-t_k)\bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) \\ \quad \quad - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)) - b \sum_{k:t_k < t} \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) \\ \quad \quad - b \int_0^t \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) dt + \int_0^1 g(s)y(s) ds, \\ ay(0) - by'(0) = \int_0^1 g(s)y(s) ds. \end{cases}$$

Obviously,

$$\begin{aligned} y'(0) &= \frac{1}{a+2b} \left[a \int_0^1 (1-s)\phi_{m^*}(x(s)) ds - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} (1-t_k)\bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)) - b \sum_{k:t_k < t} \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) + b \int_0^t \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) dt \right], \\ y(0) &= \frac{b}{a(a+2b)} \left[a \int_0^1 (1-s)\phi_{m^*}(x(s)) ds - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} (1-t_k)\bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)) - b \sum_{k:t_k < t} \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) + b \int_0^t \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) dt \right] \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{a} \int_0^1 g(s)y(s) ds. \end{aligned}$$

Substituting (2.10), (2.11) in (2.9), we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 y(t) = & \frac{b}{a(a+2b)} \left[a \int_0^1 (1-s) \phi_{m^*}(x(s)) ds - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} (1-t_k) \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) \right. \\
 & \left. - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)) - b \sum_{k:t_k < t} \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) + b \int_0^t \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) dt \right] \\
 & + \frac{1}{a} \int_0^1 g(s)y(s) ds + \frac{t}{a+2b} \left[a \int_0^1 (1-s) \phi_{m^*}(x(s)) ds \right. \\
 & \left. - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} (1-t_k) \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)) \right. \\
 & \left. - b \sum_{k:t_k < t} \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) + b \int_0^t \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) dt \right] \\
 & - \int_0^t (t-s) \phi_{m^*}(x(s)) ds + \sum_{k:t_k < t} (t-t_k) \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) + \sum_{k:t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)).
 \end{aligned}$$

In a similar way as the proof of (2.6) in Lemma 2.1, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 \int_0^1 g(s)y(s) ds = & \frac{a}{a-\xi} \left\{ \frac{b}{a(a+2b)} \left[\int_0^1 g(t) dt a \int_0^1 (1-s) \phi_{m^*}(x(s)) ds \right. \right. \\
 & \left. - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} (1-t_k) \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)) \right. \\
 & \left. - b \sum_{k:t_k < t} \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) + b \int_0^t \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) dt \right] \\
 & + \frac{t}{a+2b} \int_0^1 g(t) dt \left[a \int_0^1 (1-s) \phi_{m^*}(x(s)) ds \right. \\
 & \left. - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} (1-t_k) \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)) \right. \\
 & \left. - b \sum_{k:t_k < t} \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) + b \int_0^t \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) dt \right] \\
 & \left. - \int_0^1 g(t) dt \int_0^t (t-s) \phi_{m^*}(x(s)) ds \right. \\
 & \left. + \sum_{k:t_k < t} (t-t_k) \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) \int_0^1 g(t) dt + \int_0^1 g(t) \sum_{k:t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)) dt \right\}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence, we finally get

$$\begin{aligned}
 y(t) = & \frac{b}{a(a+2b)} \left[a \int_0^1 (1-s) \phi_{m^*}(x(s)) ds - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} (1-t_k) \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) \right. \\
 & \left. - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)) - b \sum_{k:t_k < t} \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) + b \int_0^t \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) dt \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \frac{a}{a-\xi} \left\{ \frac{b}{a(a+2b)} \left[\int_0^1 g(t) dt a \int_0^1 (1-s) \phi_{m^*}(x(s)) ds \right. \right. \\
& - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} (1-t_k) \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)) \\
& \left. - b \sum_{k:t_k < t} \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) + b \int_0^t \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) dt \right] \\
& + \frac{t}{a+2b} \int_0^1 g(t) dt \left[a \int_0^1 (1-s) \phi_{m^*}(x(s)) ds - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} (1-t_k) \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) \right. \\
& \left. - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)) - b \sum_{k:t_k < t} \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) + b \int_0^t \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) dt \right] \\
& - \int_0^1 g(t) dt \int_0^t (t-s) \phi_{m^*}(x(s)) ds + \sum_{k:t_k < t} (t-t_k) \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) \int_0^1 g(t) dt \\
& \left. + \int_0^1 g(t) dt \sum_{k:t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)) \right\} \\
& + \frac{t}{a+2b} \left[a \int_0^1 (1-s) \phi_{m^*}(x(s)) ds - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} (1-t_k) \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) \right. \\
& \left. - a \sum_{k:t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)) - b \sum_{k:t_k < t} \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) + b \int_0^t \phi_{m^*}(x(t)) dt \right] \\
& - \int_0^t (t-s) \phi_{m^*}(x(s)) ds + \sum_{k:t_k < t} (t-t_k) \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) + \sum_{k:t_k < t} I_k(y(t_k)).
\end{aligned}$$

Hence

$$y(t) = \int_0^1 H_1(t, s) \phi_{m^*}(x(s)) ds - \sum_{k=1}^m H_1(t, t_k) \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) - \sum_{k=1}^m H_2(t) I_k(y(t_k)),$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
H_1(t, s) &= G_1(t, s) + \frac{1}{a-\xi} \int_0^1 G_1(s, \tau) g(\tau) d\tau, \\
G_1(t, s) &= \frac{1}{d} \begin{cases} (b+as)(b+a(1-t)), & 0 \leq s \leq t \leq 1, \\ (b+at)(b+a(1-s)), & 0 \leq t \leq s \leq 1, \end{cases} \\
H_2(t) &= \frac{at-a-b}{a+2b} + \frac{1}{a-\xi} \int_0^1 \frac{at-a-b}{a+2b} g(t) dt.
\end{aligned}$$

Then the proof is completed. \square

It follows from (2.7), (2.8), and (2.9) that $H_1(t, s)$, $G_1(t, s)$, and $H_2(t)$ have the following properties.

Lemma 2.4 Suppose (H3) holds and assume that $G_1(t, s)$ and $H_1(t, s)$ are given as in Lemma 2.3. Then we have

$$\frac{1}{d} b^2 \leq G_1(t, s) \leq G_1(s, s) \leq \frac{(a+b)^2}{d}, \quad \forall t, s \in J, \quad (2.12)$$

$$\rho_1 \leq H_1(t, s) \leq \frac{a}{a-\xi} G_1(s, s) \leq \rho_2, \quad \forall t, s \in J, \quad (2.13)$$

$$H_2(t) \leq \rho_2, \quad (2.14)$$

where

$$\delta = \frac{b}{a+b}, \quad \rho_1 = \frac{b^2 \gamma^1}{a+2b}, \quad \rho_2 = \frac{a(a+b)^2}{(a-\xi)d}.$$

Proof Clearly, it follows from the definition of $G_1(t, s)$ that (2.12) holds. Now we show that (2.13) and (2.14) are true.

In fact, for $t \in [\zeta, 1]$ and $s \in J$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} H_1(t, s) &= G_1(t, s) + \frac{1}{a-\xi} \int_0^1 G_1(s, \tau) g(\tau) d\tau \\ &\leq G_1(s, s) + \frac{\xi}{a-\xi} G_1(s, s) \leq \frac{a(a+b)^2}{(a-\xi)d} = \rho_2, \\ H_2(t) &= \frac{at-a-b}{a+2b} + \frac{1}{a-\xi} \int_0^1 \frac{at-a-b}{a+2b} g(t) dt \leq \frac{at}{a+2b} + \frac{\xi}{a-\xi} \frac{at}{a+2b}, \\ \frac{at}{a+2b} &\leq \frac{a}{a+2b} \leq \frac{(a+b)^2}{a+2b}. \end{aligned}$$

Consequently,

$$H_2(t) \leq \frac{(a+b)^2}{a+2b} + \frac{\xi}{a-\xi} \frac{(a+b)^2}{a+2b} = \frac{a(a+b)^2}{(a-\xi)d} = \rho_2. \quad (2.15)$$

This completes the proof. \square

Combining Lemma 2.1 with Lemma 2.3, we can get directly the following result.

Lemma 2.5 Assume that (H1)-(H3) hold. Then $y(t)$ has the following form:

$$\begin{aligned} y(t) &= \int_0^1 H_1(t, s) \phi_m^* \left(\int_0^1 H(s, \tau) f(\tau, y(\tau), y'(\tau)) d\tau \right) ds \\ &\quad - \sum_{k=1}^m H_1(t, t_k) \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) - \sum_{k=1}^m H_2(t) I_k(y(t_k)). \end{aligned}$$

Proof The conclusion is so straightforward that we omit it here. \square

We next give some notations and a fixed point theorem which will be used to prove our main results. Let

$$\begin{aligned} PC^1[J, R^n] &= \{y: J \rightarrow R^n \mid y'(t) \text{ is continuous when } t \neq t_k, y(t_k^+), y(t_k^-), y'(t_k^+), y'(t_k^-) \\ &\quad \text{exist and } y(t_k^-) = y(t_k), k = 1, 2, \dots, m\}. \end{aligned}$$

Clearly, $PC^1[J, R^n]$ is a Banach space with the norm $\|y\|_{PC^1} = \max\{\|y\|_{PC^1}, \|y'\|_{PC^1}\}$.

Lemma 2.6 [19] $H \subset PC^1[J, R^n]$ is a relatively compact set if and only if $\forall y \in H$, y and y' are uniformly bounded in J and equi-continuous on J_k ($k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, m$).

Definition 2.1 A function $y \in PC^1$ is said to be a solution of (1.1) if it satisfies every equation in system (1.1).

Lemma 2.7 (Schauder fixed point theorem) *If K is a nonempty convex subset of a Banach space V and T is a continuous mapping of K into itself such that $T(K)$ is contained in a compact subset of K , then T has a fixed point.*

Definition 2.2 Define an operator $A : PC^1[J, R^n] \rightarrow PC^1[J, R^n]$ by

$$\begin{aligned} (Ay)(t) = & \int_0^1 H_1(t, s) \phi_{m^*} \left(\int_0^1 H(s, \alpha) f(\alpha, y, y') d\alpha \right) ds \\ & - \sum_{k=1}^m H_1(t, t_k) \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) - \sum_{k=1}^m H_2(t) I_k(y(t_k)). \end{aligned} \quad (2.16)$$

Lemma 2.8 Assume that (H1)-(H3) hold. Then $y(t) \in J$ is a fixed point of A if and only if $y(t)$ is a solution of problem (1.1).

Lemma 2.9 The operator $A : PC^1[J, R^n] \rightarrow PC^1[J, R^n]$ is completely continuous.

Proof According to (2.16) we have

$$\begin{aligned} (Ay)'(t) = & \int_0^1 H'_{1t}(t, s) \phi_{m^*} \left(\int_0^1 H(s, \tau) f(\tau, y, y') d\tau \right) ds \\ & - \sum_{k=1}^m H'_1(t, t_k) \bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) - \sum_{k=1}^m H'_2(t) I_k(y(t_k)). \end{aligned} \quad (2.17)$$

From (2.16) and (2.17) we know that $A : PC^1[J, R^n] \rightarrow PC^1[J, R^n]$ is continuous. For any bounded set $S \in PC^1[J, R^n]$, and any function $y(t) \in S$, we see that $(Ay)(t)$ and $(Ay)'(t)$ are uniformly bounded and equi-continuous on J_k ($k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, m$). Hence, according to Lemma 2.6 we see that $A(S)$ is a relatively compact set, therefore A is a completely continuous operator. \square

3 Main results

Let

$$\begin{aligned} \beta &= \overline{\lim}_{\|y\| + \|y'\| \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{\|f(t, y, y')\|}{\phi_{m^*}(\|y\| + \|y'\|)} \right), \\ \beta_k &= \overline{\lim}_{\|y\| \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{\|I_k(y)\|}{\|y\|} \right), \\ \bar{\beta}_k &= \overline{\lim}_{\|y\| + \|y'\| \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{\|\bar{I}_k(y, y')\|}{\|y\| + \|y'\|} \right) \quad (k = 1, 2, \dots, m). \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 3.1 Assume that (H1)-(H3) hold. Let $\eta = \max\{\eta_1, \eta_2\} < 1$, then (1.1) has at least one solution, where

$$\eta_1 = 2\rho_2\phi_{m^*}\left(\frac{\gamma\beta}{4}\right) + 2m\rho_2\bar{\beta}_k + m\rho_2\beta_k,$$

$$\eta_2 = 2\rho_3\phi_{m^*}\left(\frac{\gamma\beta}{4}\right) + 2m\rho_3\bar{\beta}_k + m\rho_2\beta_k.$$

Proof From the definition of β , there exists $N > 0$, s.t.

$$\|f(t, y, y')\| \leq \beta\phi_{m^*}(\|y\| + \|y'\|), \quad \forall t \in J, \phi_{m^*}(\|y\| + \|y'\|) \geq N.$$

Similarly, we get

$$\|I_k(y)\| \leq \beta_k\|y\|,$$

$$\|\bar{I}_k(y, y')\| \leq \bar{\beta}_k(\|y\| + \|y'\|), \quad \forall y, y' \in R^n \ (k = 1, 2, \dots, m).$$

This together with (2.14), (2.15) implies that

$$\begin{aligned} \|(Ay)(t)\| &= \left\| \int_0^1 H_1(t, s)\phi_{m^*}\left(\int_0^1 H(s, \tau)f(\tau, y, y')d\tau\right)ds \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \sum_{k=1}^m H_1(t, t_k)\bar{I}_k(y(t_k), y'(t_k)) - \sum_{k=1}^m H_2(t)I_k(y(t_k)) \right\| \\ &\leq \left\| \rho_2\phi_{m^*}\left(\int_0^1 H(s, \tau)f(\tau, y(\tau), y'(\tau))d\tau\right) \right\| \\ &\quad + m\rho_2(\bar{\beta}_k(\|y\| + \|y'\|)) + m\rho_2\beta_k\|y\| \\ &\leq \rho_2\phi_{m^*}\left(\frac{\gamma}{4}\beta\phi_{m^*}(\|y\| + \|y'\|)\right) + 2m\rho_2\bar{\beta}_k\|y\| + m\rho_2\beta_k\|y\| \\ &\leq 2\rho_2\phi_{m^*}\left(\frac{\gamma\beta}{4}\right)\|y\| + 2m\rho_2\bar{\beta}_k\|y\| + m\rho_2\beta_k\|y\| \\ &\leq \left(2\rho_2\phi_{m^*}\left(\frac{\gamma\beta}{4}\right) + 2m\rho_2\bar{\beta}_k + m\rho_2\beta_k\right)\|y\| \\ &\leq \eta_1\|y\| \\ &\leq \|y\|, \end{aligned}$$

where $\eta_1 = 2\rho_2\phi_{m^*}\left(\frac{\gamma\beta}{4}\right) + 2m\rho_2\bar{\beta}_k + m\rho_2\beta_k$.

From (2.7), (2.8), and (2.9), we have

$$\begin{aligned} H'_{1t}(t, s) = G'_{1t}(t, s) &= \frac{1}{d} \begin{cases} -a(b + as), & 0 \leq s \leq t \leq 1, \\ a(b + a(1 - s)), & 0 \leq t \leq s \leq 1, \end{cases} \\ \max_{t, s \in J, t \neq s} |H'_{1t}(t, s)| &= \max_{t, s \in J, t \neq s} |G'_{1t}(t, s)| \leq \frac{1}{d}a(a + b) = \frac{a + b}{a + 2b} = \rho_3, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$H_2'(t) = \frac{a}{a+2b} \leq \rho_2,$$

which together with (2.17) imply

$$\begin{aligned} \|(Ay)'(t)\| &= \left\| \int_0^1 H_{1t}'(t,s) \phi_{m^*} \left(\int_0^1 H(s,\tau) f(\tau,y,y') d\tau \right) ds \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \sum_{k=1}^m H_1'(t,t_k) \bar{I}_k(y(t_k),y'(t_k)) - \sum_{k=1}^m H_2'(t) I_k(y(t_k)) \right\| \\ &\leq \rho_3 \phi_{m^*} \left(\frac{\gamma}{4} \beta \phi_m(\|y\| + \|y'\|) \right) + m \rho_2 (\bar{\beta}_k(\|y\| + \|y'\|)) + m \rho_2 \beta_k \|y\| \\ &\leq \rho_3 \phi_{m^*} \left(\frac{\gamma \beta}{4} \right) (\|y\| + \|y'\|) + 2m \rho_3 \bar{\beta}_k \|y\| + m \rho_2 \beta_k \|y\| \\ &\leq \left(2\rho_3 \phi_{m^*} \left(\frac{\gamma \beta}{4} \right) + 2m \rho_3 \bar{\beta}_k + m \rho_2 \beta_k \right) \|y\| \\ &\leq \eta_2 \|y\| \\ &\leq \|y\|, \end{aligned}$$

where $\eta_2 = 2\rho_3 \phi_{m^*} \left(\frac{\gamma \beta}{4} \right) + 2m \rho_3 \bar{\beta}_k + m \rho_2 \beta_k$.

On the other hand, according to Lemma 2.9, we know operator A is a completely continuous operator. Together with Lemma 2.6 (Schauder fixed point theorem), we know A has a fixed point in $PC^1[J, R^n]$. \square

Theorem 3.2 Assume that (H1)-(H3) hold. If there exist nonnegative real numbers $\alpha, \alpha_k, \bar{\alpha}_k, s, t$.

$$\begin{aligned} \|\phi_{m^*}(x) - \phi_{m^*}(y)\| &\leq \alpha(\|x - y\|), \\ \|\bar{I}_k(x, x') - \bar{I}_k(y, y')\| &\leq \bar{\alpha}_k(\|x - y\| + \|x' - y'\|), \\ \|I_k(x) - I_k(y)\| &\leq \alpha_k \|x - y\|, \end{aligned}$$

and $\xi = \max\{\xi_1, \xi_2\} < 1$, then (1.1) has a unique solution, where

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_1 &= \rho_2(2\alpha + 2m\bar{\alpha}_k + m\alpha_k), \\ \xi_2 &= 2\rho_3\alpha + 2m\rho_3\bar{\alpha}_k + m\rho_2. \end{aligned}$$

Proof From (2.16) and (2.17), similar to the proof of Theorem 3.1, we get

$$\begin{aligned} (Ax)(t) - (Ay)(t) &= \int_0^1 H_1(t,s) (\phi_{m^*}(x) - \phi_{m^*}(y)) + \sum_{k=1}^m H_1(t,t_k) (\bar{I}_k(y,y') - \bar{I}_k(x,x')) \\ &\quad + \sum_{k=1}^m H_2(t) (I_k(y) - I_k(x)). \end{aligned}$$

Computing straightforwardly we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \|(Ax)(t) - (Ay)(t)\| &\leq \rho_2 \alpha (\|x - y\|) + \sum_{k=1}^m \rho_2 \bar{\alpha}_k (\|x - y\| + \|x' - y'\|) \\
 &\quad + \sum_{k=1}^m \rho_2 \alpha_k (\|x - y\|) \\
 &\leq \rho_2 (\alpha + 2m\bar{\alpha}_k + m\alpha_k) \|x - y\|_{PC^1} \\
 &= \xi_1 \|x - y\|_{PC^1} \\
 &\leq \xi \|x - y\|_{PC^1}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Also we obtain

$$\begin{aligned}
 (Ax)'(t) - (Ay)'(t) &= \int_0^1 H'_{1t}(t, s) (\phi_{m^*}(x) - \phi_{m^*}(y)) \\
 &\quad + \sum_{k=1}^m H'_1(t, t_k) (\bar{I}_k(y, y') - \bar{I}_k(x, x')) \\
 &\quad + \sum_{k=1}^m H'_2(t) (I_k(y) - I_k(x)), \\
 \|(Ax)'(t) - (Ay)'(t)\| &\leq \rho_3 \alpha \|x - y\| + m\rho_3 \bar{\alpha}_k (\|x - y\| + \|x' - y'\|) + m\rho_2 \alpha_k \|x - y\| \\
 &\leq (\rho_3 \alpha + 2m\rho_3 \bar{\alpha}_k + m\rho_2 \alpha_k) \|x - y\|_{PC^1} \\
 &= \xi_2 \|x - y\|_{PC^1} \\
 &\leq \xi \|x - y\|_{PC^1}.
 \end{aligned}$$

It follows from $\xi < 1$ that A has a unique fixed point and therefore (1.1) has a unique solution. \square

4 Example

In this section, we will illustrate the main results by a simple example.

Let $n = 1$, $t_1 = \frac{1}{2}$, $a = b = 1$, $I_1(y(t_1)) = \bar{I}_1(y(t_1), y'(t_1)) = \frac{1}{2}$, $f(t, y, y') = \sqrt[3]{t - y + y'} - \frac{1}{42}y' - 3\ln(1 + y^2)$, and $g(s) = \frac{1}{3}$, $h(t) = \frac{1}{2}$, $m = 3$ in ϕ_m . Then equation (1.1) turns to the following equation:

$$\begin{cases}
 (\phi_3(y''))'' = \sqrt[3]{t - y + y'} - \frac{1}{41}y' - 3\ln(1 + y^2), & t \in J, t \neq \frac{1}{2}, \\
 \Delta y|_{t=\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{2}, \\
 \Delta y'|_{t=\frac{1}{2}} = \frac{1}{2}, \\
 y(0) - y'(0) = \int_0^1 \frac{1}{3}y(s) ds, \\
 y(1) + y'(1) = \int_0^1 \frac{1}{3}y(s) ds, \\
 \phi_3(y''(0)) = \phi_3(y''(1)) = \int_0^1 \frac{1}{2}\phi_3(y''(t)) dt.
 \end{cases} \quad (4.1)$$

Following Theorem 3.1, we have the following result.

Theorem 4.1 *The problem (4.1) has at least one positive solution.*

Proof Obviously, $f(t, y, y') \in C[J \times R^n \times R^n, R^n]$, $I_1(y(t_1)) \in C[R^n, R^n]$, $\bar{I}_1(y(t_1, y'(t_1))) \in C[R^n \times R^n, R^n]$. From (4.1), we get

$$\begin{aligned}\|f(t, y, y')\| &\leq \sqrt[3]{t + \|y\| + \|y'\|} + \frac{1}{41}\|y'\| + 3\ln(1 + \|y\|^2), \\ \|I_1(y)\| &= \frac{1}{2}, \quad \|\bar{I}_1(t, y, y')\| = \frac{1}{2}, \quad \forall t \in J, y, y' \in R^n,\end{aligned}$$

so we get $\beta \leq \frac{1}{41}$, $\beta_1 = 0$, $\bar{\beta}_1 = 0$, $\rho_2 = 2$, $\rho_3 = \frac{2}{3}$, $\gamma = 2$, $\phi_{m^*}(\frac{\gamma\beta}{4}) \leq \sqrt{\frac{1}{82}}$.

Hence, $\eta_1 \leq \sqrt{\frac{8}{41}} \leq 1$, $\eta_2 \leq \sqrt{\frac{8}{369}} \leq 1$, $\eta \leq \sqrt{\frac{8}{41}} \leq 1$. From Theorem 3.1, we get the result.

This completes the proof. \square

Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Authors' contributions

All authors contributed equally to the writing of this paper. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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